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from Gishiga to Anadyr and Kamchatka, and the dogs are not exhausted by the frequent trips required for carrying cossacks, officials and mail. Besides, the Koryak dwelling along the main route have to share their dogs' food with the teams of the merchants passing by, and with the sedentary Koryak of the other villages. For this reason their own dogs often suffer from lack of food, grow very thin, and are very slow.

Efficiency of the Dog. — Concerning the efficiency and swiftness of dogs, — mainly Koryak dogs, — I will give here only data from my own experience. The efficiency of a team depends less upon the number of dogs than upon their quality. A good team must consist of well-fed, adult dogs, that get along well with one another and know their master. Under such circumstances, even ten dogs (five pairs) are considered a complete team. The teams of the Russians or of Russianized natives are in better condition than those of the natives. Once I saw a Russian team of twelve dogs which carried about 1000 pounds, besides the dogs' food and the driver, in two days over a distance of 100 miles, from Nishne Kolymsk to the mouth of the Omolon. It must be added that the trail was good and smooth. Such feats are very rare, however. Ordinarily the Russian driver, both on the Kolyma and the Gishiga, would carry from 350 to 400 pounds a team, approximately 35 pounds per dog, for a distance of 200 miles or over. The Koryak drivers would take less, from 250 to 350 pounds; and some Koryak drivers, with teams of eight or nine dogs, would take only 200 pounds. Freight-sledges would make from 27 to 50 miles a day; while travelling alone, without freight, I made from 50 to 65 miles. Only once I covered a distance of 100 miles, from the village Paren to Gishiginsk despite a heavy snow-storm, without stopping over night. I left Paren at 8 A. M., and reached Gishiginsk at 5 A. M. on the following day. While travelling, we rested twice and drank tea by the side of a campfire. These rests consumed about three hours, and we lost nearly two hours on an elevated tundra because the snow-storm had obliterated the trail. Amid such unfavorable conditions we went at the rate of over six miles an hour, thanks to the fine quality of the dogs. The average trotting-speed of good dogs is generally from four and a half to six and a half miles an hour. Over short distances I have made between six and a half and ten miles an hour. In general, dogs are inferior in speed not only to horses, but even to reindeer; but they occupy the first place, reindeer the second, and horses the last, when capacity of running long distances with only brief rests is considered. They make long journeys without long rests provided the food is good. With a team of fresh reindeer, I once made 65 miles in six hours, almost without a stop; but before going on, I had to rest over night.

These figures, giving the speed of dogs, apply only to a well-trodden and level trail. When the journey lies over untrodden soft snow, deep snow,

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489 231 or hummocky ice, driving, even with good dogs, is considerably slower, because the sledge sinks into the snow, or on account of the necessity of clearing obstacles.

435 489 The value of an ordinary Koryak dog ranges from 8 to 12 rubles. A "leader" costs 15 rubles. A particularly bright "leader" costs from 20 to 25 rubles.

494 The fee for carrying freight is usually 1 ruble per pud (36 pounds) for 100 versts (66 miles); but merchants pay less, particularly to Koryak drivers, — 2.50 rubles or 2 rubles for a whole sledge-load of 5 pud.

A passenger-sledge (counting, of course, a single passenger only) costs 3 kopeks per verst, or 3 rubles per 100 versts, at the mail-carrier's rate, which has been established by the government. I usually paid 10 rubles per driving-sledge for such distances as Paren-Gishiga or Paren-Kamenskoye, approximately 150 and 200 versts (100 and 132 miles); but for long distances, without relay of dogs, the fee is lower. Thus from Gishiginsk to Anadyr (a distance of some 800 versts, or 530 miles) a sledge for a trip one way costs 25 rubles.